



1st October 2015

Newsletter 2

Dear Parents,

Is it already October? We are well and truly settled into our new school year and enjoying the opportunities to work outside as the weather continues to surprise us!

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



MacMillan Coffee Morning

What a great turn-out! A huge success, and for such a worthwhile cause that is close to many of our hearts. **A total of £302 pounds was raised** (including a generous donation from BabyBelles) and there was a palpable sense of our community 'coming together' to put others first. We have the wonderful Mrs Priestley and Mrs McGinnis to thank for getting us going, but I am sure they would in turn want to say a huge thank you to everybody involved, the helpers, the bakers and the eaters.

Wellies Request!



We are aiming to get out and about as often as possible this year so would really appreciate any spare wellies you can donate that we will keep at school and use when it's muddy. They just need to be waterproof! Any spare raincoats

will also be gratefully received.

We are also on the lookout for volunteers to help us keep the outdoor areas well cared for. We are ideally looking for people who can spare us an hour or so a week and are passionate about gardening. Retired grandparents are perfect for this role, so have a go at twisting their arms; they will be well and truly rewarded by just spending time with our wonderful children.

Marking

We hope you will see a difference in your child's books this year. As part of our school improvement we are encouraging the older children to take more responsibility for their learning by using 'learning checklists' when they are working. They will either be given or help create the checklist, and will then tick off the things that are on it when are sure they have included them in their work. Younger children are using clear simple picture stamps to help them.

We are using a '**Tickled Pink**' (got it!) and '**Growing Green**' (next steps!) colour coding system with the older children to make this more visual, so you will also see pink and green pens and highlighters being used.

The ultimate privilege comes when children are allowed to 'Purple Polish' their work with a '**Purple Polishing Pen**', showing us that they have been able to respond to their identified next steps. It is all very exciting!



Reading

Reading is a joy for small children and we encourage our children to be eager and confident readers. Now that we also have our super new library we are keen to make the best use of it. If you are able to help us out by offering to look after the library or you can come in and read with children please let us know. We have a set of story sacks that have not been used for a while that we want to resurrect; if you are willing to offer to take one and make sure it is organised and sorted and not missing any resources, please can you let us know and we will start to use them with our younger children.

Have a great weekend.

Paula Bliss, Headteacher

